

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Presently amended) A computer-implemented method of matching vehicle ratings to rental equipment using a central database, comprising:

storing vehicle information and rental equipment information in the central database;

providing a website for a user to specify a description of a vehicle;

retrieving the vehicle information from the central database based on the description of the vehicle as specified by the user;

~~searching the central database based on the description of the vehicle to find related vehicle information;~~

identifying vehicle information retrieved from the central database to identify rental equipment in the central database which is compatible with the user-specified vehicle by a computer-implemented comparison of the rental equipment information to the vehicle information, wherein the computer-implemented method selects the rental equipment based on compatible attributes between the rental equipment information and vehicle information, including height of the vehicle and hitch assembly, length and width of the vehicle, weight ratio, electrical wiring harness, ground clearance, engine size, drive configuration, wheel base, and towing capacity; and

displaying the compatible rental equipment on the website.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the description of the vehicle includes make, model, and year of the vehicle.

Application Serial No.: 10/674,934
Long, Mark C.
Response to Office Action mailed April 10, 2006

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further including the step of providing a webpage to enter the make, model, and year of the vehicle.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vehicle information in the central database includes physical characteristics of the vehicle.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the physical characteristics of the vehicle include height, width, length, weight, and ground clearance.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the physical characteristics of the vehicle are compared to physical characteristics of the rental equipment to determine compatibility between the vehicle and the rental equipment.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the central database resides on a first computer system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further including:
entering the description of the vehicle on a second computer system remote from the first computer system;
sending the description of the vehicle to the first computer system through a communication network;
sending a listing of the compatible rental equipment to the second computer system through the communication network; and
displaying the listing of the compatible rental equipment on the second computer system.

Application Serial No.: 10/674,934
Long, Mark C.
Response to Office Action mailed April 10, 2006

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 further including:
determining a need for additional information based on a search of the central database with the description of the vehicle; and
requesting the additional information from a user operating the second computer system.

10. (Presently amended) A computer-implemented method of matching vehicle information to equipment, comprising:
receiving a description of a vehicle from a user;
searching a central database based on the description of the vehicle to ~~find related vehicle information;~~
~~identifying~~ identify equipment in the central database which is compatible with the vehicle by a computer-implemented comparison of the equipment to the vehicle information, wherein the computer-implemented method selects the equipment based on compatible attributes between the equipment and vehicle information, including at least one attribute from the group consisting of height of the vehicle and hitch assembly, length and width of the vehicle, weight ratio, electrical wiring harness, ground clearance, engine size, drive configuration, wheel base, and towing capacity; and
sending a listing of the compatible equipment to the user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further including the step of storing vehicle information and equipment information on the central database.

Application Serial No.: 10/674,934
Long, Mark C.
Response to Office Action mailed April 10, 2006

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 further including the step of providing a website for the user to specify the description of the vehicle.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further including the step of displaying the compatible rental equipment on the website for the user.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the description of the vehicle includes make, model, and year of the vehicle.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the vehicle information in the central database includes physical characteristics of the vehicle.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the physical characteristics of the vehicle include height, width, length, weight, and ground clearance.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the physical characteristics of the vehicle are compared to physical characteristics of the equipment to determine compatibility between the vehicle and the equipment.

18. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the central database resides on a first computer system.

Application Serial No.: 10/674,934
Long, Mark C.
Response to Office Action mailed April 10, 2006

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further including:
entering the description of the vehicle on a second computer system remote from the first computer system;
sending the description of the vehicle to the first computer system through a communication network;
sending a listing of the compatible equipment to the second computer system through the communication network; and
displaying the listing of the compatible equipment on the second computer system.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further including:
determining a need for additional information based on a search of the central database with the description of the vehicle; and
requesting the additional information from the user operating the second computer system.

21. (Presently amended) A computer-implemented method of matching a vehicle with rental equipment, comprising:
storing vehicle information and rental equipment information in a central database;
receiving a description of a vehicle from a website;
retrieving the vehicle information from the central database based on the description of the vehicle;
~~searching the central database based on the description of the vehicle to find related vehicle information;~~
identifying vehicle information retrieved from the central database to identify rental equipment which is compatible with the vehicle by a computer-implemented comparison of the rental equipment information to the vehicle information, wherein the

computer-implemented method selects the rental equipment based on compatible attributes between the rental equipment information and vehicle information; and

displaying the compatible rental equipment on the website.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the description of the vehicle includes make, model, and year of the vehicle.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the vehicle information in the central database includes physical characteristics of the vehicle.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the physical characteristics of the vehicle are compared to physical characteristics of the rental equipment to determine compatibility between the vehicle and the rental equipment.

25. (Presently amended) A computer system, comprising:
means for storing vehicle information and equipment information in a central database;
means for providing a website;
means for receiving a description of a vehicle;
means for retrieving the vehicle information from the central database based on the description of the vehicle;
means for searching the central database based on the ~~description of the vehicle to find related vehicle information;~~
means for identifying vehicle information retrieved from the central database to identify rental equipment in the central database which is compatible with the vehicle as determined by a computer-implemented comparison of the rental equipment to the

Application Serial No.: 10/674,934
Long, Mark C.
Response to Office Action mailed April 10, 2006

vehicle information, wherein the computer-implemented method selects the rental equipment based on compatible attributes between the rental equipment information and vehicle information;
and

means for displaying the compatible rental equipment on the website.

26. (Original) The computer system of claim 25 wherein the vehicle information in the central database includes physical characteristics of the vehicle.

27. (Original) The computer system of claim 26 wherein the physical characteristics of the vehicle are compared to physical characteristics of the rental equipment to determine compatibility between the vehicle and the rental equipment

28. (Original) The computer system of claim 25 wherein the central database resides on a first computer system,

29. (Original) The computer system of claim 28 further including:

means for entering the description of the vehicle on a second computer system remote from the first computer system;

means for sending the description of the vehicle to the first computer system through a communication network;

means for sending a listing of the compatible equipment to the second computer system through the communication network; and

means for displaying the listing of the compatible equipment on the second computer system.

Application Serial No.: 10/674,934
Long, Mark C.
Response to Office Action mailed April 10, 2006

30. (Presently amended) A mass storage device, comprising:

means for storing vehicle information and equipment
information in a central database;

means for providing a website;

means for receiving a description of a vehicle;

means for retrieving the vehicle information from the
central database based on the description of the vehicle;

means for searching the central database based on the
~~description of the vehicle to find related vehicle information;~~

means for identifying vehicle information retrieved from the
central database to identify rental equipment in the central
database which is compatible with the vehicle as determined by a
computer-implemented comparison of the rental equipment to the
vehicle information, wherein the computer-implemented method
selects the rental equipment based on compatible attributes
between the rental equipment information and vehicle information;
and

means for displaying the compatible rental equipment on the
website.

31. (Original) The mass storage device of claim 30 wherein the
vehicle information in the central database includes physical
characteristics of the vehicle which are compared to physical
characteristics of the rental equipment to determine
compatibility between the vehicle and the rental equipment.